Transcription of tape recording

JEE. Today is April 12, 1968. My name is John Eddy Eskridge. (Ethridge?)

On Monday before Dr. King was shot, there was a man over there where I worked at, he told me that Dr. King, uh, was going to get shot when he come back to Memphis.

Q. What was the man's name?

JEE. His name was Walter.

Q. Is that his last name?

JEE. No, that's not his last name. That is his first name. He said that he had received, uh, a telephone call from his cousin that night and they told him that, uh, that this - that, uh, er - they was working with the police department, and uh, er - and if King returned to Memphis to - er, uh - lead a march, they was going to put up a man in a building uh - uh - to shoot him. So, on the following that Thursday, when King did get killed, I returned to work er - uh on Friday morning, at 8:15 and he met me and uh, and uh told me that I told you that uh - that they was going to kill him. So I replied to him that, uh, it was not funny worth a damn, and you better be careful in uh, in uh, in uh, in uh what you are saying, or you may get arrested yourself. And that was all that was said.

Q. Well, what is this man's full name?

JEE. I I really don't know his full name.

Q. Well, where does he work?

JEE. He works at Mickey's (Nixie?) warehouse.

Q. Mickey Warehouse?

JEE. Yes; Mickey warehouse.

Q2. Is that Mickey Lumber Company?

JEE. Well, it used to be Mickey Lumber Company, but it's a warehouse now.

Q. Where is it located?

JEE. It's 289 West Ollie.

Q. West what?

JEE. Ollie. O L L I E.

Q. O L L I E ?

JEE. Right.

Q. What's his job there?

JEE. Well, uh, he don't have no certain job.

Q2. He's a general foreman, then, you would say?

JEE. Well, uh, he's not a foreman, and uh - well, you could call him a foreman 'cause he don't do too much. He just mostly do ...

Q. You don't know his last name. You just simply know he's Walter.

JEE. That's all I know, is Walter.

Q. He still works there.

JEE. Oh, yes. He still works there.

Q2. Does he own a part in the business?

JEE. No, he don't own a part in the business.

Q. He just ...

JEE. In other words, his half-brother there is the manager of the warehouse.

Q. I see. What's his half-brother's name?

JEE. Danny Lee Meadows.

Q. M E T T E R S ?

JEE. That's right.

Q. Would you spell it for the record?

JEE. M E T T E R S.

Q. That's right.

JEE. That's the way I would spell it. That's right.

Q. Can you tell us again what Walter said. And remember as many details as possible.

JEE. Er uh - from the first I will start?

Q. Yes, from the first ...

JEE. Well, the first story, it was - I believe it was on a Monday. He came out where we got to work, and he said if Dr. King went to Memphis that he was going to get killed because, he said, that he had a talk with his cousin that night, before that, and said that if he made a attempt to lead a march that they was going to shoot him. Well, they did kill him on a Thursday,

Q. The cousin said that he would be killed.

JEE. Yes.

Q. They said that they would put a man in the building? Would you explain that again?

JEE. You see, Walter, he - evidently, he have re - some people on the police force.

Q. ...

JEE. Ye - his cousin is on the police force. And uh, he was talking

to them over - over uh, the telephone that night. See, ...

Q. That was what - Monday night?

JEE. It was on a - it was on - on - Sunday night when that - he was talking with them.

Q. Umhm.

JEE. And uh, and uh, he brought the news back right to the plant on a Monday morning.

Q2. This was the Monday morning before King was killed.

JEE. That's right. That's right.

Q2. That would be April ~~3x~~ first.

JEE. That's right. That woulda been on April 1st.

Q2. Now, you said to us, that there were other people present when he said that?

JEE. Well, sir, there was - there was two my other boys present, the rest was white peeple, what were standing round. But it didn't no one pay him too much attention or uh, or uh, what he said or about King but me. So, Walter all during that week, I was out at company maintenance. Uh, er, one of the boys worked with me. So he said well, I believe what he said, said, but I just don't believe that it - that it ever would happen in Memphis. Then, he said, well, you can't trust these people here in Memphis, says, they'll do most anything uh - uh that could happen.

Q. What were the names of the other black people who heard this Walter say ...

JEE. One was Timothy Carter.

Q. You know where Timothy Carter is now?

JEE. He live on Grenwich St. offa Sheriff. I just remember ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Briton.

Q. B R I T -

JEE. Briton. B R I T O N. But I wouldn't know exactly his number. If I'm not mistaken, it's in the 1500 block.

Q. And what about the other one.

JEE. This other fellow, he's a - he heard, uh, what he told me was on a Friday morning because we was working side by side, and he definitely heard him what he said, and -

Q. He heard Walter say it.

JEE. Yes, sir. He ~~xxxx~~ heard him, ~~xxxx~~ said, I told you he was going get killed.

Q. He heard him say this Friday following -

JEE. After. That's right.

Q. That would be April 5.

JEE. April 5th. That's right. That's right.

Q2.

JEE. No, the difference is our own Hollywood and not Memphis. One His name is John. Uh, I told John about what happened, see, and uh, John uh, uh, he got his information from Mink.

Q2. Did you know the other John's name who was present?

JEE. No. Nick was his first name. I don't even know his last name.

Q2. Nick was his first name. You don't know -

JEE. That's right. I don't know -

Q. Is he white or colored?

JEE. He's colored.

Q2. Do you know the name of any of the white men who were present? What were their names?

JEE. Well, I know one of the white men was present. His name is Chip. Course, I don't know if he paid him any attention or not when he said it then. I wouldn't ...

Q2. You don't know his last name.

JEE. No. I don't know his last name. Uhunh.

Q. Is there anything else you can add to this?

JEE. No. That's just the way it was. That is just the truth, and nothing else I could add to it, no more than I told him that, uh, it wasn't funny, that Friday morning. I didn't see nothing funny about it. And he was tickled about it. Seemed like he was really happy from all what was said because after he replied it Monday he come right back alaughing and atelling me that I told you that, that er uh, that er uh, they was agoing to kill hmm. So I was already mad, so I told him that already, it wasn't funny worth a damn. That's the way I replied it to him.

Q.

JEE. I been working there at the Mickey Warehouse about two years.

Q. What did you do there?

JEE. ...